



COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Meeting of the Board of Directors**
Meeting Location: **14 Dixon Ave, Suite 201, Concord, NH 03301**
Meeting Date: **Thursday September 27, 2023**
Meeting Time: **Noticed for 10AM @ CPCNH.org & Lebanon City Hall**

AGENDA


1. Welcome & Roll Call - agenda check
2. Approve Minutes of the 8/31/23 Board Meeting (**Action Item**)
3. Admit & Welcome the City of Somersworth and Towns of Tamworth, Hopkinton, and Atkinson as our 39th to 42nd Members (**Action Item**)

Somersworth Member Representative: Scott Smith
Tamworth Member Representative: Gabrielle Watson, Alternate: Keats Myer
Hopkinton Member Representative: Mark Zankel, Alternate: Ken Traum
Atkinson Member Representative: Jim Garrity, Alternate: Michelle Veasey
4. CEO's Report
5. Executive Committee Report (**Action Item**)

Recommendation to extend term of Community Choice Partners, LLC contract from 9/30/23 to 12/31/23 (but not authorized hours).
6. Governance Committee Report (**Action Item**)

Adopt minor amendments to Governance Committee Charter
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Finance Committee Report
9. Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Committee Report
10. Risk Management Committee Report
11. Member Outreach & Engagement Committee Report
12. Audit Committee Report

RFP for Audit Services
13. Dates for October Board & Membership Meeting (Thursday 10/26 or Friday 10/27?) & November Board meeting (Thursday 11/30?)
14. Other business, questions & reflections
15. Adjournment

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MINUTES

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chair Below opened the meeting at 10:00am. Fifteen of twenty Directors were present with seven attending in person at the physical location exceeding the 25% quorum requirement of five. The Directors attending remotely each stated that it was not reasonably practical to travel to the meeting location to attend in person.


Member	Director	Present / Absent
Walpole	Paul Looney	Present (virtual)
Hanover	April Salas	Absent
Durham	Steve Holmgren	Absent
Enfield	Kim Quirk	Present (virtual)
Exeter	Nicholas Devonshire	Present (virtual)
Peterborough	Bruce Tucker	Present (virtual)
Webster	David Hemenway	Present
Portsmouth	Kevin Charette	Present (virtual)
New London	Jamie Hess	Absent
Plainfield	Evan Oxenham	Present
Newmarket	Joseph Lamattina	Present
Warner	Clyde Carson	Absent
Cheshire County	Terry Clark	Absent
Pembroke	Matt Miller	Present
Harrisville	Andrea Hodson	Present (virtual)
Randolph	Kathleen Kelly	Present (virtual)
Dover	Jackson Kaspari	Present
Lebanon	Clifton Below	Present
Nashua	Doria Brown	Present (virtual)
Rye	Lisa Sweet	Present

2. Approve Minutes of the 8/31/23 Board Meeting (Action Item)

Director Sweet moved to approve the minutes of 8/31/23 Board meeting. Seconded by Director Miller. Hearing no objection, Chair Below declared the minutes approved by unanimous consent.

3. Admit & Welcome the City of Somersworth and Towns of Tamworth, Hopkinton, and Atkinson as our 39th to 42nd Members (Action Item)

Director Hemenway moved to welcome and admit the City of Somersworth and the towns of Tamworth, Hopkinton, and Atkinson as the 39th, 40th, 41st, and 42nd Members. Seconded by Director Sweet. Hearing no objection, Chair Below declared the motion passed by unanimous consent.

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- Somersworth Member Representative: Scott Smith, Finance Director
- Tamworth Member Representative: Gabrielle Watson, Energy Committee; Alternate: Keats Myer, Town Administrator.
- Hopkinton Member Representative: Mark Zankel, Community Power Committee; Alternate: Ken Traum, Select Board.
- Atkinson Member Representative: Jim Garrity, Energy Committee Alternate: Michelle Veasey, Energy Committee.

Jim Garrity from Atkinson introduced himself, described the process of engaging with Henry Herndon resulting in a recommendation from the Committee to the Select Board to join CPCNH and complimented CPCNH on the templates, resources, materials, and excellent support. Chair Below recalled that Jim Garrity was previously chair of the NH House of Representatives Science, Technology, and Energy Committee.

Gabrielle Watson of Tamworth introduced herself and described the process of assessing all three Community Power providers, and then recommending the Select Board join CPCNH, and thanked Henry Herndon for his services including this morning’s request for aggregate load data from the utilities. Member Watson described a recent Tamworth Community Conversation that focused in part on the exciting potential of Community Power.

4. CEO’s Report


CEO Callnan described the “looking forward” section of the report including noting that next week “refresh mailers” will go out to 5,000 customers in active Community Power Aggregations (CPA) who have recently applied for electric service and for customers who have recently returned to utility default service from a competitive option, and only to customers who have not previously opted-out. It was agreed that the final draft of the “refresh” mailers would be circulated among the CPA Member Representatives for final comment before issuing the mailers.

Launch notice mailers were sent to Dover customers last week, and the first three Cheshire County towns to launch service will receive their mailers in a couple of weeks.

CEO Callnan is taking two weeks off starting 10/9 and will continue to meet with Member Directors subsequently.

CEO Callnan described the thorough hiring process for Directors of Administration, Load and Power Resources, and Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, including staff and Board Directors engaging with candidates in interviews and conducting reference checks. CEO Callnan is confident CPCNH will soon have an excellent senior leadership team with a start date forecast of November 1, 2023.

5. Executive Committee Report (Action Item)

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Chair Below described the Executive Committee’s recommendation to extend the Community Choice Partners contract.


Director Hemenway moved to extend the date through the term of the Community Choice Partners, LLC contract is effective from 9/30/23 to 12/31/23. Seconded by Director Miller. Motion carried unanimously 15-0 on a rollcall vote.

Member	Director	Vote
Walpole	Paul Looney	Y
Hanover	April Salas	
Durham	Steve Holmgren	
Enfield	Kim Quirk	Y
Exeter	Nicholas Devonshire	Y
Peterborough	Bruce Tucker	Y
Webster	David Hemenway	Y
Portsmouth	Kevin Charette	Y
New London	Jamie Hess	
Plainfield	Evan Oxenham	Y
Newmarket	Joseph Lamattina	Y
Warner	Clyde Carson	
Cheshire County	Terry Clark	
Pembroke	Matt Miller	Y
Harrisville	Andrea Hodson	Y
Randolph	Kathleen Kelly	Y
Dover	Jackson Kaspari	Y
Lebanon	Clifton Below	Y
Nashua	Doria Brown	Y
Rye	Lisa Sweet	Y

Vice Chair Charette requested an update on the net metering context and suggested Member Services focus on continuing to brief the Membership on the topic. Chair Below noted he would discuss the item under the Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Committee Report.

6. Governance Committee Report (Action Item)

Director Hodson described the charter drafted by the committee, which is not a charter required under the Joint Powers Agreement, but is a useful charter and exercise for guiding the Committee.

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Secretary Oxenham moved to approve the amendments to Governance Committee Charter as presented. Seconded by Director Sweet. Hearing no objection, Chair Below declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

7. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Quirk described the report and noted that by the end of the calendar year Joint Reserves were forecasted to be \$7.3 million.

Director Hemenway asked why deferred expenses have increased. CEO Callnan replied that the schedule of repayment has been adjusted so that the deferred expenses will be paid over a shorter amount of time, but that the deferred payments themselves have not increased in total. Treasurer Quirk noted that payment of deferred expenses is starting this month.

Director Miller asked to see the deferred expense balance against the payment, and noted that by accelerating the payment there would be a savings on the cost of interest.

Vice Chair Charette asked for further detail on the uncollectable expense, which was a growing number. CEO Callnan responded that these were accrued expenses, not write offs.


Treasurer Quirk presented an early draft of the 2024 budget. The early 2024 draft projects \$105MM in Revenue and \$19MM in Joint Reserves by the end of 2024, and noted that the budget includes an expected Wave 2 Launch, but not a Wave 3 Launch, and that the budget has yet to incorporate full details on operating expenses. In October, there will be a more detailed draft budget to consider, and the budget is not likely to be adopted until December.

Director Sweet noted that the budget anticipates meeting the minimum reserve target of 60 days of cash in reserve in 2024, which is comfortably ahead of schedule.

Reserves by community are calculated by taking total revenues and dividing community share of load, and breaking out certain costs by \$/MWh, \$/notice for mailers, \$/meter for data management and billing services, etc., as required by the Cost Sharing Agreement.

Director Brown asked about the timing and availability of using reserves for programs and projects. Treasurer Quirk clarified that the 120 days of cash in reserve target (to cover all operating costs including energy purchases) remains a 5-year target, and clarified that meeting the minimum reserve target of 60 days of cash in reserve, nor the 120 days of cash target, would not trigger a spillover of reserves from Joint Reserves into Discretionary Reserves. Under current policy, only excess of 180 days of cash in reserve (the maximum target) would trigger the spillover from Joint Reserves to Discretionary Reserves. CEO Callnan added that the maximum target in the Financial Reserve Policy is 180 of cash in reserve, which is separate from the application of a Discretionary Reserve Adder, which could be available starting after Purchase of Receivables is implemented, likely by the rate period starting August 2024.

Director Hodson asked what would be the appropriate forum for reviewing the Financial Reserve Policy and proposing amendments. Director Miller volunteered the Risk Management Committee as the appropriate

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forum, as that Committee oversaw the drafting and recommending of the Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Finance Reserves policies.

Director Tucker raised the question, which is better, customers investing in a higher renewable content rate through purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates, or to use the adder to the rate to create a granite local fund for investment in local clean energy resources. Chair Below noted CPCNH policy allows for a “Local Power Option,” which is related.

8. Finance Committee Report

No questions or discussion.

9. Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Committee Report


Chair Below noted that the next RLAC meeting was scheduled for Friday 10/6 at the Capital Office, and that the Committee would finalize its charter, to be approved by the Membership at the October Membership Meeting.

The Purchase of Receivables (POR) proceedings are wrapping up, Chair Below has provided testimony, and the utilities, Dept. of Energy, and CPCNH have negotiated a settlement with legal review from DWGP. The settlements have been presented to the Public Utilities Commission, each of which calls for a second phase of the proceeding to look at the specific language that needs to go into utility tariffs regarding Terms and Conditions for Suppliers (and CPAs), and the Utility Supplier Agreement, both of which were written for Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (CEPS), which have their own administrative rules that are distinct from the CPA Puc 2200 rules. POR means that as soon as a utility generates a bill to a customer, the utility owns the receivable that would otherwise have belonged to CPCNH or a CPA, and CPCNH will have a receivable from the utility equal to what was billed, less a discount rate of about 1% or less, which covers utilities expected write offs. On a monthly basis, utilities will pay CPCNH the full amount of the receivables less the discount rate, alleviating CPCNH’s concern of collecting outstanding payments or nonpayment from customers. Implementation of POR will simplify accounting and make implementation of Discretionary Reserve Adders easier.

SB166, relative to Grid Modernization, becomes effective next week. The legislation makes certain findings relative to distributed energy resources (DERs) and adds a number of useful and related definitions related to DERs to statute. It begins to better enable piloting of transactive energy rates for DERs and integration of energy storage into the grid, and also creates a Grid Modernization Advisory Group, which includes a seat for a community power representative.

Chair Below reported that utilities argue that the Public Utilities Commission must approve a line loss rate associated with distributed generation in order to properly account for net metered power as load reduction.

- The utilities have filed a petition seeking a waiver of Puc 2200 rules and cost proposal for implementation of “bill-ready billing”; CPCNH offered a settlement proposal that would have utilities (1) flag net metered customers; (2) provide on a monthly basis export data of net metered customers; and (3) treat net metered generation as a reduction in wholesale load obligation, as is required by law and the physical realities of the grid.

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- There has been activity towards reconstituting the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Working Group, which has been dormant for two decades or more, and which may be a useful forum to change EDI and get the necessary data from utilities to allow CPCNH to serve net metered customers.

At the last meeting, the Board voted to authorize the Chair or CEO to petition the PUC to determine the line loss factor, which would support the effort. CPCNH may also petition the PUC to order utilities to flag net metered customers in data exchange with CPAs.

Finally, there is a PUC docket on updating Net Metering. This is a critical docket and opportunity to modernize energy policy and expand market access to and development of community scale clean energy, solar, energy storage, and other flexible distributed energy resources. CPCNH will file testimony by December 1.

One option may be to use part of the October Membership Meeting to educate the Membership on CPCNH’s draft proposal and testimony in the Net Metering Docket for creating a market place to properly temporally value local, distributed, flexible, clean energy resources that reduce everyone’s electric costs for things like Energy, Transmission, Capacity, and other costs.

There is also potential for legislation to support these efforts.

Treasurer Quirk requested that for any meeting on CPCNH’s influence on net metering programs, that we understand how it will affect an individual’s experience of installing solar, and if there is a change to net metering, how will that affect the average person.

CEO Callnan added that, in the near term, CPCNH hopes to see net metered export information from Eversource before the next Board meeting. Liberty and Unitil have stated they can provide net metered export data. This is one side of the coin. The other piece is receiving credit for the net metered power so as to reduce wholesale load obligation.

There have been additional inadvertent enrollments. Director Hodson suggested it would be helpful to have language describing the issue of inadvertent enrollments. Director Hodson requested a single paragraph to share with public and select boards to describe the status of the Net Metering situation.


Liberty utilities prorates rates during months when rates change. Eversource and Unitil at first declined but Eversource has since indicated they can provide this service.

10. Risk Management Committee Report

Director Miller reported that RMC met and approved a hedge recommendation memo. RMC also worked on the Energy Risk Management Dashboard, which will be revisited during the 10/4 meeting. RMC is working on planning, logistics, and schedule for the Wave 2 Launch.

11. Member Outreach & Engagement Committee Report

Director Sweet noted that Attachment 1 is a report on Member Services that MOEC will receive on a monthly basis summarizing community engagement, media engagement, updates on Phases of Join, Plan, Launch, and Operate. MOEC hosted a “Plan” Workshop which was well attended by many of the newer members working towards Town Meeting. On 9/22 MOEC held an Ambassador’s Workshop to review the survey and the public engagement strategy — 40 Members have self identified as Ambassadors! MOEC is supporting those

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individuals with resources. At the next MOEC meeting on 10/10, after conducting business, there will be a “Launch” workshop for Wave 2 Members. The November meeting may focus on “Operate” and items such as key accounts, rate payer communications, programs and services, etc.

Also attached is the 12-month Public Engagement Strategy, which Director Sweet summarized, and the Board discussed.

12. Audit Committee Report

Director Kelley described the completed RFP for Audit Services, and noted there is a list of CPA firms that will be receiving the RFP.

13. Dates for October Board & Membership Meeting (Thursday 10/26 or Friday 10/27?) & November Board meeting (Thursday 11/30?)

The Board discussed possible venues and logistics for the Membership meeting.

14. Other business, questions & reflections

Member Jo-Ellen Courtney noted that CPCNH will celebrate its 2nd anniversary on Sunday October 1st, 2023.

CEO Callnan announced that Eversource has agreed to pay the large net metering customer who has suffered a \$130,000 loss the monies owned that customer.

15. Adjournment

Director Hodson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Director Miller. Hearing no objection, Chair Below declared the meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.

